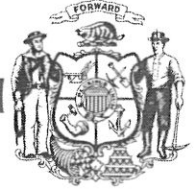


Frank Lasee
WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR
FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



Testimony for bill SB-218
Administrative Rules Reform Bill
Senate Committee on Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce, and Government Operations
February 28, 2011

As we strive for a less-intrusive government, we need to limit some of the most intrusive things government does. Among the most intrusive things government does involves unelected agencies passing restrictive rules that have the force of law. We need to rein in bureaucracies and make them more responsive to the people. To accomplish that, we need Administrative Rules Reform.

Under my proposal:

Still in place is the Governor's role in authorizing the agency to promulgate the rule.

A rule must pass through two committees and then JCRAR. Once it does that, it's required that a bill be introduced that authorizes the rule.

Once the JCRAR process is complete, the rule is referred to a standing committee for consideration.

By making these rules subject to committees and JCRAR, we increase the likelihood of stopping bad rules and we add legislative oversight.

- Administrative Rules have the force of law. Laws should be made by elected lawmakers. In the case of these rules that have the force of law, they should at least be approved by lawmakers.
- Legislative approval will prevent agencies from becoming too headstrong and powerful as we've seen on the federal level from the EPA.
- This law does not take away any power from administrative heads of department. They are still free to make and pass rules as they have under current law. The rules are simply subject to legislative approval.

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